

Stony Creek Bomb

November 5, 2004 | Patriot-News, The (Harrisburg, PA) | The Patriot-News | Page A11

Stony Creek rail trail runs through an outstanding wilderness area.

I have taken our Boy Scout troop on the trail for bicycling. The 18-mile trail is shaded the entire way. Even 11-year-old boys can ride the entire trail.

Crossing streams and Stony Creek beside the trail provide lots of excuses to stop. There are also side trails to explore to make each trip a little different.

Two months ago I rode Stony Creek trail and another Boy Scout troop was going on a 20-mile hike. They were using the Appalachian Trail where it crosses Stony Creek trail to make a loop.

There is no place anywhere nearby that is as long, easy and pleasant. Cutting the trail in half for the gunnery range would destroy much of its utility. There is no land swap that could leave us with a nearby trail that is as nice.

The military wants to take a wilderness area just on the other side of Stony Creek for Fort **Indiantown** Gap's firing range. That would just put the people using the trail in more danger. The military would feel safe using less care on their range because of the additional buffer.

Extending the firing range is the first step toward destroying a resource that can't be replaced.

BRYAN DILTS Enola